



SRC NewsFlash

A Summary of News, Messages, and
Facts from the Senate Republican Caucus

SRC Calendar:

- Monday
April 18
(Day 99)
- **9 – 10 am:** House Appropriations Committee hearing on bills necessary to implement the budget (HHR A, TVW)
 - **10 am – 5:30 pm:** Senate Session/Caucus (possible evening session)
 - **10 am – 1 pm:** Mothers against WASL rally (Tivoli Fountain to Sylvester Park, est. attend. – 75)
 - **4 – 5:30 pm:** Senate Intern ceremony (Columbia Room, est. attend – 80)

- Tuesday
April 19
(Day 100)
- **7:15 am:** Leg. Fellowship (JAC ABC)
 - **8 – 10 am:** Senate Education Committee hearing (SHR 1) on:
 - HCR 4408 – Creating a joint select committee on secondary education (Quall)
 - Betti Sheldon's appt. to Higher Ed Coordinating Board
 - **10 am – 5:30 pm:** Senate Session/Caucus (possible evening session)
 - **11 am – 1 pm:** Pierce County two-year college legislative day (Columbia Room, est. attend. – 30)

- Wednesday
April 20
(Day 101)
- **Sen. McCaslin's Birthday**
 - **10 am – 5:30 pm:** Senate Session/Caucus (possible evening session)
 - **Annual Caucus Chair Dinner for Members** (Susie Tracy's house, call Janet at 786-7684 to RSVP and get directions)

- Thursday
April 21
(Day 102)
- **8 – 10 am:** House Health Care hearing on mental health services (HHR A)
 - **10 am – 5:30 pm:** Senate Session/Caucus (possible evening session)
 - **Noon:** Legislative Ethics Board (SHR 3)

- Friday
April 22
(Day 103)
- **9 – 10 am:** House Finance work session on alternative revenue forecasts (HHR C)
 - **10 am – 5:30 pm:** Senate Session/Caucus (possible evening session)
 - **5 – 10 pm:** Arts Walk (Downtown Olympia, est. attendance – 2,000)

- Saturday
April 23
(Day 104)
- **10 am:** Possible Senate Session/Caucus
 - **2 – 9 pm:** Arts Walk (Downtown Olympia, est. attendance – 2,000)

- Sun.,
April 24
(Day 105)
- **SINE DIE!**
 - **10 am:** Possible Senate Session/Caucus

Republican budget gets boost

NO-NEW-TAXES BUDGET BOOSTED BY DROP IN STATE'S JOBLESS RATE
The evidence is mounting that the no-new-taxes budget of 2003 was the right thing to do: The March 17 state revenue forecast showing \$739 million more for the coming biennium than previously expected was a good sign the state's economy is bouncing back from the post-9/11 recession. The recently released March numbers for joblessness show the lowest unemployment rate since December 2000, just before the economy took a plunge. The key message: It would be wise to repeat the action Republicans took two years ago when we worked with Democrats to pass a bipartisan budget that did not raise taxes—while protecting the state's most vulnerable. Only if the state spends within its means will the economy continue to grow and more jobs be created. It's not too late for the Democratic majority to consider the Senate Republican spending plan to get the job done without new taxes while funding important state priorities.

In the News: Quotes from recent news stories

On tougher vehicle-emissions rules:

Republicans countered that it's wrong – and likely unconstitutional – for the state to base its laws on regulations written by “bureaucrats” in another state. Some rural lawmakers called it another example of the Puget Sound area inflicting its values on the rest of the state.

“This is an attempt to turn Washington into another California,” said **Sen. Val Stevens**, R-Arlington... Standing on the Senate sidelines, **Sen. Mark Schoesler** shook his head. “This bill summarizes what this session's about: going to California for our car laws and Canada for our prescriptions,” said Schoesler, R-Ritzville, who voted no. (*Spokesman-Review*, 4/14/05)

On failure to pass meaningful election reform:

Republican Sen. Pam Roach, R-King County, ...said [many citizens and legislators] don't believe Democrats are serious about approving changes that make a difference... “Basically, we want to increase accountability in the way votes are cast and votes are counted,” **Senate Minority Leader Bill Finkbeiner, R-Kirkland**, said. “If we're not able to get to that goal, then we're going to have to take another look at all the election reform bills. If we are able to get to that goal, we'll have to look at all these bills separately.” (*Olympian*, 4/12/05)

On the gutting of unemployment insurance reform:

Republicans and most business leaders, who have long complained about having some of the highest unemployment costs in the nation, argued it's too soon to begin rolling back the 2003 changes. They warned the bill will stifle the state's economic recovery and drive up unemployment... “People would rather have a job than have a little bit more unemployment insurance,” said **Senate Minority Leader Bill Finkbeiner, R-Kirkland**... Yesterday's 25-20 Senate vote — like the House vote — fell almost exactly along party lines, with one Democrat joining the Republican opposition... Republicans said reversing a key part of the 2003 deal sends a chilling message to businesses that are thinking about expanding or locating here.... “We're shifting the transmission in reverse and slamming on the accelerator,” said **Sen. Luke Esser, R-Bellevue**. (*Seattle Times*, 4/16/05)